

# FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF BALLARAT EXCURSION / NEWS SHEET

AUGUST, 1980

Meeting ...1st AUGUST - "The Orange-Bellied Parrot" - speaker  
Mr. C. Anderson.

Meeting 5th SEPTEMBER - "The Use of Hollows by Mammals and Birds" -  
Speaker Mr. B. Golding.

Excursion SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST - Full Day - "The Spit and Swan Island" -  
Leader - Mr. C. Anderson.

Excursion MEET AT CROCKER'S 8.25 A.M.

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER - Full day - "Mosquito Flat" - Leader  
Dr. F. Harrap.



President: Mr. R. BORCH Phone 42 8630;

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Treasurer: Mr. S. REYNOLDS. Phone 32 7721

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Meetings, as specified, are held in the Administration Building of the School of Mines and Industries, Lydiard Street South, Ballarat, commencing 8 pm.

EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, Cnr. STURT and ARMSTRONG STREETS, BALLARAT. AT 9.30 am FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS. OR AT 1.30 pm. FOR HALF DAY.

## THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT EXCURSION

Up to 83 of these birds have been sighted at the Spit, and 12 at Swan Island. This number could increase as the birds move around a lot.

Note that because the parrot reduces its activity between late morning and early afternoon, MEET AT CROCKER'S CORNER AT 8.25 a.m. FOR AN 8.30 a.m. DEPARTURE. Mrs. Anderson will wait, if necessary, for the usual 9.30 a.m. departure. Footwear taken should be water-proof as the ground is swampy in places.

C. Anderson

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## BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB MEETING

FRIDAY, 4TH JULY

There are many members of our club who are expert in their field and none more so than Florence Chuk. She gave the lecture on Fungi with great enthusiasm and she helps to create a similar response from her audience. Mrs. Chuk explained the details of fungi that could be found in the Invermay area of the Creswick State Forest prior to our club's field excursion the next day.

Florence used the overhead projector and slides to bring to our notice peculiarities of the different kinds of fungi. As well, she had collected excellent specimens, labelling them for us to have better understanding and easy reference. A booklet was prepared for the excursion which gives concise information about the particular species with added notes for those interested in natural dyes from some fungi.

Fungi cannot produce their own food, since they contain no chlorophyll. They must live on decaying matter and by doing this they play an active role in the nitrogen cycle. Those recognizable parts of the fungi are the fruiting body of a fine threadlike plant - mycellium. The fascination of these simple plants lies in their variety of colour, shape and size. Fungi are cosmopolitan; so European texts are applicable for Australian conditions.

During last year's excursion to Invermay, a species of fungus was found that created great excitement. Florence sent the specimen to the National Herbarium for identification. Information received later informed her that the species was *Hydnum Repandum* or *Denitum Repandum* which was found in the Creswick area in 1931 and had very few sightings since.

Detail to help with identification relates to the cap shape of the fungus - whether it is flat (*lactarius*) or dome like, convex (*collybia*); the nature of gills (*russula*) or pores (*boletus*) and colour of spores; the texture of the stem or stipe: fibrous includes remainder of veil (*amanita*), brittle and crumbles easily (*russula*) or hollow (*lepiota*). Cortinars have a stipe which thickens to a bulblike shape at the base while other fungi, *collybia*, have a "longish root" stipe. *Pleurotus* is a gilled fungus with almost no stipe so has a fan shaped cap. Also the manner whereby the cap and/or gills are connected to the stipe e.g. compare *lepiota*, *collybia*, *omphalia* and *russula*.

Specimens on display :

Russula	mycena
lichen	lactarius
jelly fungi	"velvet foot"
amanita muscaria (fly agaric)	Boletus - a poly pore
Panellus	pleurotus
cortinum	

Books placed on display by Mrs. Chuk included :

J.H. Willis, BE, "Victorian Toadstools and Mushrooms", Field Naturalists of Victoria.

Lange & Hora, "Guide to Mushrooms and Toadstools", Collins.

Rinaldi & Tynaldo, "Mushrooms and Other Fungi, An Illustrated Guide", Hamlyn.

"Fungi of Northern Europe", Volumes 1 & 2, Penguin.

Margaret Tonkin.

EXCURSION - 5TH JULY, 1980



Thirty people braved cold wintry conditions to make the excursion to Invermay in search of fungi. In spite of the weather, we managed to find a good variety of specimens. Last year's list showed that in 1979 there were fewer cortinairs in evidence than in 1978, but produced, as a happy surprise, little Hydnum (dentinum) repandem. This year the cortinairs were back, green and blue and brown and gold, hydnum was nowhere to be seen, and the surprise of the day

was a dainty little newcomer to our Invermay list, a small Armillaria found growing on a dead stump. Two clumps were seen on one stump, and I have since found another in a different part of the forest.

This Armillaria thrives on dead wood in cool moist situations. The cap and stem are a rich yellow colour, thickly encrusted, when young, with warty clumps of tiny spines. Although small - the largest would be 2 cm in diameter - it is very attractive when clustered together on a mossy log.

The wet weather preceding the excursion had affected many of the ground-dwellers amongst the fungi, but those on wood were more noticeable than in other years. White tremella, a jelly fungus, was plentiful, as were bracket fungi, both gilled and polyporous. Mycena were also plentiful on fallen wood.

Under the pines we found Amanita (fly agaric) and the beautiful Saffron Milk Cap. Last year there were few fungi of any beauty or interest under the Pines. Some Saffron Milk Caps (lactarius) were found under eucalypts a short distance from the pines.

Some coral fungi were seen, a few cup fungi, and some specimens of Russula, but all had suffered somewhat from the rain.

Florence Chuk.

## BITTERN LAGOON ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The first official meeting of the Committee was held on Tuesday afternoon, the 10th June, 1980 and 10 persons were present.

The Department of Community Welfare Services of Victoria has recognised our group as an "Advisory Committee with the function of advising the Centre in regard to the use and management of the Bittern Lagoon".

The Lagoon comprises part of the land belonging to the Langi Kal Kal Training Centre. At present there are approximately 200 surviving trees of which approximately 100 are 2 - 3' Sheoaks.

The following projects are planned :-

- a. A new fence to be built on the eastern boundary.
- b. Gates to the lagoon block are to be padlocked to prevent the entry of stock.
- c. Creating islands by the use of bulldozers with a view to improving the variety of habitat and increasing the aesthetic appeal.
- d. A local resident will be given permission to hunt foxes on the block.
- e. Breaches along the Emu Creek will be mended with the result that a greater volume of water will enter the Lagoon.
- f. Tree guards of wire netting to be made by boys at the Centre.
- g. Planting of approximately 500 trees and shrubs during the month of August this year.

Pat Murphy.



## L.C.C. REPORT - BALLARAT REGION

The first report for the Ballarat Region is due to be released by the Land Conservation Council at the end of this month.

Very roughly, the Ballarat Region extends from Enfield across to Barkstead, almost to Maryborough, across and beyond Mt. Langhi Ghiran, and back around Lake Goldsmith to Enfield. (Our Secretary has a map for those requiring a more accurate description of the area).

The first L.C.C. report will contain much valuable information about the condition and usage of all public land within that region. The public and interested groups are given two months to forward submissions expressing their ideas regarding the appropriate future usage of this land, with supporting data and information.

At the end of this period the L.C.C. will collate all of these submissions and weigh up the various arguments. They will then prepare and issue a set of recommendations about the usage of public lands. A further period is given for groups to forward appeals against these recommendations.

Recommendations may take the form of classifying areas as types of park or reserve. Of these, the most powerful are Reference parks, National parks and State parks. These are not to be interfered with by industry or commerce. (At least in theory). By contrast, regional parks and multipurpose parks can be mined, grazed, logged and excavated as necessary. There are numerous other categories classifying the type of use, enterprise or industry which each of the public areas is most suited to.

Ballarat has no areas which are Reference, National or State parks, and therefore, all may be logged or mined or worked as is seen fit. Maryborough was given no areas in the above categories following their submission.

Take a long drive through the Creswick Forest area if you would like to see the practical effects on multi-purpose forest areas.

The Ballarat area is extremely short of good natural untouched forest areas of sufficient size to maintain a wide variety of habitat and species. I would like to see the F.N.C.B. submit a document as powerful and persuasive as possible, hopefully to enable us to keep some substantial areas in their natural state. There are a number of very important reasons for suggesting this, and our L.C.C. report sub-committee will be doing their best to tabulate them.

Everyone can help, and all help will be warmly received.

Rob. Borch.

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LETTER FROM NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The Native Plants Preservation Society has been reviewing the results of Photoflora '80 and considering its future. Whilst the interest of photographers in competing and the standard of slides submitted were at an all time high, there was a further big decline in attendance at screenings, including those conducted by the Society itself. This is causing us to think very carefully about the prospects for 1982 and we are writing to all groups who participated in 1980 to seek their reaction to the situation.

The statistics are as follows :-

Year	Total number of screenings	Total attendance	Average attendance per screening	Percent change
1972	19	2590	136	-
1974	22	3736	170	+25
1976	24	3698	154	-9
1978	23	2906	126	-18
1980	24	2381	99	-21

Our records based on head counts show that attendances at screenings held by your group during this period were -

1972	1974	1976	1978	1980
275	243	233	192	110

In the light of this information we would be grateful to have your opinions on the following -

- (1) What do you think are the main reasons for the progressive decline in attendance at screenings?
- (2) Were there any special circumstances that you are certain affected attendance at your 1980 screening either way? If so by how many?
- (3) Was the prior sale of printed tickets (if any) for your screening more or less successful than in previous years?
- (4) Should Photoflora be held again in 1982?
- (5) Would you expect that your Club would sponsor a screening again in 1982?
- (6) Can you suggest any changes to either the organisation or presentation of Photoflora that would make it more successful from your point of view?
- (7) Do you know of any (Melbourne) person with particular skills or experience who would be willing and able to help us improve Photoflora, particularly as regards attracting larger audiences?

Please give this matter your careful consideration as the future of Photoflora will be very much influenced by your answers.

- Interested members are asked to place their suggestions in the suggestion box or send to H. Burgess for the committee to collate at their next meeting, Wednesday 27th August.